

# A COMPUTER NETWORK SECURITY SYSTEM AND METHOD HAVING UNILATERAL ENFORCEABLE SECURITY POLICY PROVISION

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

5           A computer network security system and method utilizes digitally signed and centrally assigned policy data, such as password length rules, that is unilaterally enforced at network nodes by node policy enforcement engines. The policy data may be variable on a per client or network node basis through a centralized authority, such as a certification authority. The computer network security system provides variable security

10 policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node through a central security policy rule data distribution source, such as the certification authority. The central security policy rule data distribution source associates a digital signature to the variable security policy rule data to ensure the integrity of the policies in the system. Each network node uses a policy rule data engine and policy rule table to decode policy rule

15 data and enforce the policy rules as selectively determined through the central authority.